(c) Do not arise.

Building of world class railway stations with Chinese assistance

113. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to involve China to build world-class city railway stations in India; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, *Inter-alia* indicating those that are proposed to be build on the ECoR system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between Government of India and Government of People's Republic of China whereunder the Chinese Railways have agreed to undertake design of two Railway stations for development into world class stations. Bhubaneswar of East Coast Railway is one of the two stations identified for the purpose. The other is Baiyyappanahalli Railway station near Bangalore.

Reservation of Group 'C' and 'D' posts in N.F. Railway

114. KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that to curb the acute unemployment problem of the North-East and to give priority to the local educated unemployed youth of North-East in service the various organizations of North-East are demanding 100 per cent reservation of service in Group 'C' and 'D' posts in N.F. Railway;

(b) whether Government is considering to adopt any such policy on this; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Extant instructions provide that the vacancies to be filled up in Group 'C' and 'D' categories are given wide publicity including publication in the Employment News and leading national and local dailies etc. and all those who apply against such notifications are considered for recruitment on the Railways. This procedure is in conformity with the Constitutional provisions regarding equality in opportunity to all in the matter of employment under the Central Government and guidelines issued by Department of Personnel and Training (which is the Nodal Department) pursuant to the directives of Hon'ble Supreme Court.

Wagon factory in Kerala

115. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal for setting up a wagon factory in Kerala as a joint venture with Steel Industries Kerala Limited;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal;

(c) whether works have been initiated on the proposal;

(d) if not, the reasons for the delay; and

(e) the time by when the work is expected to begin along with the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir. There is no proposal for setting up of a wagon factory in Kerala. However, a MoU (Memorandum of Understanding) has been signed between Ministry of Railways and Department of Industries and Commerce, Government of Kerala (which owns Steel Industries Kerala Ltd.) to form a Joint Venture Company for fabrication of bogie frames of ICF design coaches and side/end walls etc. for wagons.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Survey for laying of new railway lines

†116. DR. PRABHA THAKUR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals of survey work for laying new railway lines has been included in the railway budget of the year 2008-09;

(b) the time limit set for completion of survey work of the above new railway lines; and

(c) the figures of the railway network in the country State-wise and the position of Rajasthan in comparison to other States alongwith the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) 37 surveys for New Board Gauge Lines have been included in the Railway Budget 2008-09. The surveys are normally planned for completion within 2-3 years depending upon the availability of manpower and resources.

(c) Detailed State-wise route kms. of Railway lines at the end of 2006-07 is given in the Railway Year Book 2006-07 which is distributed alongwith Railway Budget Documents.

Double stack container on Kandla-Bhatinda rail line

117. SHRI VIJAYKUMAR RUPANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Gujarat has submitted a proposal in February, 2008 regarding providing facility of double stack container towards Kandla-Bhiladi-Samdari-Jodhpur-Bhatinda railway line; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto and the present status of the proposal?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.